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CBC NEWSLETTER

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 42 November/December 1996 Number 6

Winter Meeting Update

Are you hoping to have the possibility of adding Long-billed Curlew, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Piping Plover and Yellow Rail to your 1997 year list? Although the meeting planners can't guarantee that these birds will be seen, various field trips during the Carolina Bird Club's January 24-26 winter meeting in the Morehead City area have been planned to locations where these birds have previously occurred. And that's not all, folks! An ocean trip aboard the *Continental Shelf* out of Morehead City will head to "Big Rock," a coral reef on the 100-fathom line, to search for pelagic species. *Please see separate article on page 5 that describes this boat trip.*

The weekend of birding gets underway with three field trips for those driving to the meeting on Friday. These drive-to-meeting trips will explore these areas: Fort Fisher, Holly Shelter Game Land, Topsail Island and Goldsboro sewage lagoons. Half-day trips are offered for both Friday and Saturday mornings and afternoons, and all-day trips are available on Saturday. Sunday's birding plans will be made on Saturday night, based on birds seen on Friday and Saturday.

The evening programs have been planned to help prepare us to find the birds in the area of our winter meeting as well as across North Carolina. Friday evening's program will be presented by longtime CBC member, **John O. Fussell, III**, author of *Finding Birds in Carteret County* and *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina*. John will share his knowledge and advice on the local birds and birding areas. Copies of *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina* will be available for sale at the meeting.

Kelly N. Davis, wildlife management consultant from Swan Quarter, NC, will be our speaker for Saturday evening. Kelly previously worked as a wildlife biologist at Mattamuskeet, Swan Quarter and Cedar Island NWRs, but now leads birding tours and serves as host of the Nature Break segment of Carolina Outdoor Journal on public TV. The topic of her "Saturday Night Live" program will be "Wildlife and Wild Places In North Carolina."

Our meeting headquarters will be the Sheraton Resort located at 2717 West Fort Macon Road (NC 58), Atlantic Beach, NC. **Directions:** from US 70 E turn right at 24th St. in Morehead City and cross bridge to Atlantic Beach. At light turn right on NC 58. Hotel is two miles on left. From NC 24 turn right on NC 58 at Cape Carteret; crossing the bridge to Emerald Isle. Continue on NC 58 about 14 miles to hotel on right. Rates for oceanview rooms are: single-$39, double-$45, triple/quad-$55 plus a 9% tax. Rooms with king beds are $10 higher. All rooms have a private balcony, microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker. The Sheraton has an indoor pool, restaurant (open for breakfast Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m.), exercise room and a fishing (birding) pier. **Reservation deadline is January 16, 1997.** These special rates cannot be guaranteed after that date. For reservations, call the Sheraton at (800) 624-8875. Be sure to indicate that your are with the Carolina Bird Club or use the hotel reservation form in this newsletter. A 72 hour notice of cancellation is required.

Registration for the winter meeting will begin on Friday at 3:00 p.m. at the Sheraton. Registration packets and other information will be available at that time. The evening programs will be held in the Atlantic Room at the Sheraton on Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. There will be social hour at 7:00 p.m. preceeding the Friday meeting. Information about field trips, including any necessary last minute changes due to weather, etc. will be posted in the lobby of the Sheraton on Thursday evening, January 23. Remember that advance registration saves you money, so please send the meeting registration form with your payment to CBC headquarters.

To sign up for field trips complete the Field Trip Registration Form insert and send it to CBC headquarters by **January 10, 1997.** Do not send any money for boat trips with this form. To register for the *Continental Shelf* boat trip, please complete the *Continental Shelf* Boat Trip Registration Form and send it with your payment to John Fussell.

Questions about the meeting should be directed to Paula Wright (919) 756-5139, Gail Lankford (919) 833-7741 or John Fussell (919) 473-3427.

INSIDE

The Traveling Birdwatcher	2
Backyard Birding	3
Special Field Trip	5
Report of Fall Meeting	6
New Members	8

Eider Quest

by Keith E. Camburn

When it came time to plan my 1996 summer birding trip all I could think of were Steller's Eider, Spectacled Eider and Asian migrants in Alaska. Naturally, I turned my attention to Barrow and the village of Gambell on St. Lawrence Island. Barrow is perhaps the best place to see all four species of eiders, and Gambell is a famous migrant trap most frequently birded from late May to early June.

I met Ron Cicerello, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. and Don Keinholz at the Anchorage airport and we boarded a flight for Nome and Gambell on the morning of June 12. At the Nome airport we checked in with Cape Smythe Air concerning our flight to Gambell, which was to leave in a few hours, only to learn that they had no reservations for us but the flight still had room.

As our Cape Smythe flight approached Gambell you couldn't help but be impressed with the arctic wilderness beneath you. On our approach you soon realized that Gambell is situated on a huge gravel bar which projects into the Bering Sea. I just knew that this would be a great birding experience.

As I planned this trip, Heathy Walker kept telling me horror stories about the housing at Gambell with no showers, no heat and a "honey" pot. To the contrary we found a warm hotel complete with kitchen, living room, and bathrooms with hot water. These luxuries do not come cheap as the hotel charges $85.00 per person per day, and you must bring all of your own food.

It's the twelfth of June and we are at Gambell, the last bird group left a week ago, and the question is, "Can we find any eiders or migrants during the next five days this late in the season?"

Your first revelation occurs in the hotel lobby as you study the birds seen at Gambell in the preceding weeks. You can imagine these lists with the likes of Far Eastern Curlew, Terek Sandpiper and Siberian Rubythroat. Pondering these lists can make you both nervous and excited. Your second revelation is about the people of Gambell and their way of life. They have been on this gravel spit for thousands of years living off the sea in a climate that most of us would consider unbearable.

At Gambell you soon learn to abhor walking in gravel and the sight of discarded plastic. Pleasures include the friendly, interesting people, the refreshing sea "breeze", the "millions" of alcids which fly past the Point and the ever present chance of finding a rare, Asian migrant.

On our first day on Gambell while birding the north end of Thompson Lake, Brainard called our attention to a swallow. I took a cursory look and wrote it off as a Violet-green which didn't have enough good sense to stay on the mainland. But Violet-greens don't have *white rumps!* OK, it must be a House-Martin. What God have we please to deserve this? The bird we saw could have been an Asian House-Martin or the Common House-Martin. We may never know which one it was. It is interesting to note that all House-Martin records in Alaska are from the first two weeks of June and several of these are from June 10-12.

During the five days of birding at Gambell we saw Common Sandpiper, Red-throated Pipit, flocks of Emperor Geese, Gray-tailed Tattler, Olive-backed Pipit, Common Rosefinch, Red-necked Stint, Yellow-billed Loon, White Wagtail, Arctic Warbler, "millions" of alcids and Gray Whales and Belugas right off the beach. We were very pleased with our first visit to Gambell. But remember that my quest was to see all four species of eiders in breeding plumage, and I was leaving Gambell with only the Common Eider.

We met the arriving Cape Smythe flight, but the pilot gave us a strange look as if to say "Who are you people?" Once again they had no record of us and the plane was "full." They managed to find space for two of us, so Don and I flew to Nome leaving Brainard and Ron standing in the Gambell wind more than slightly irritated. When we arrived in Nome Cape Smythe informed us that a plane would go to Gambell to retrieve our friends, and that they would be in Nome later that evening. Upon their arrival Don and I had to hear how they had walked to the Point and saw a male Steller's Eider.

We planned for three days of birding in Nome which would give us time to bird the Kougarok Road and Safety Lagoon. The Kougarok Road, which is a birder's paradise, yielded several singing Bluethroats, an active Gyrfalcon nest and a Bristle-thighed Curlew in a Questar. Having found an immature Slaty-backed Gull at the dump, we were happy to later see adults along the ocean. The highlight for me was breeding plumaged King and Spectacled Eiders. The Spectacled was a great find in Nome, and it left Don and I only the Steller's to worry about.

As our flight landed in Anchorage I was thrilled with the ten life birds I had seen in Gambell and Nome. As we approached Barrow in the fog the next morning we could see that the ocean was still frozen. Since I get very focused when I know that a life bird may be close at hand, I immediately headed the rental vehicle (I use the term"vehicle" very loosely here) out the Gas Well Road before heading to the hotel. I had been told by Barrow birders that in order to see all four species of eiders you should visit by June 15 since the male eiders leave the tundra ponds for the open ocean after breeding and are therefore difficult to find. It was now June 21. Brainard soon yelled "Steller's Eider!" and naturally I'm looking for the bird in the distance only to have him grab my head and point it to a small pond right next to the vehicle which contained a pair of Steller's. At last I had seen my fourth eider. On our way to the hotel we saw King, Spectacled and Common.

(continued on next page)

Backyard Birding

with Martha K. Brinson

The day after the last column, Hurricane Fran hit. The damage to our yard was nothing compared to the devastation many had, so I should not complain that my best bird viewing tree was ripped apart. It was right in front of a huge bay window we had just put in to watch the many birds that frequented this tree. I should just be thankful things weren't worse.

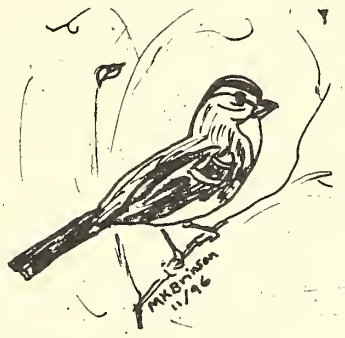
An owl arrived in early October and stayed several weeks; the first I'd heard since spring. It called out on some nights -- not all -- usually just before midnight and again around 4:00 a.m. I couldn't quite make out the tune. It was like the Barred Owl's "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all," but I was only getting the "you-all" notes. Part of the difficulty in hearing was due to closed windows and the hum of the air conditioner on nights still hot and humid even in October. It made me stop and think about growing up in pre-air conditioning days when I slept beside an open window under tall pines. Even though the summer nights felt hotter'n Hades, it was worth it to listen to frogs, the pines creaking in the wind, and the owls, hooty-hooing right by my window.

On October 26 I heard my first White-throated Sparrow for the season, early in the morning in the east yard, midday in the west yard. I heard them every day for a week, then intermittently.

October 27 a pair of Dark-eyed Juncos passed through the garden at 11:00 a.m. and pecked around in the pepper patch but wouldn't take any sunflower seeds. They left ten minutes later and have not returned.

Over the past couple of years, I've noticed an increase in the number of Northern Cardinals in my yard, with 12 or 16 showing up together. Although they are as common as dirt around here, it is still breath-taking to see them in large groups. Last year on November 4, the first cold day of autumn, I went into the garden at dusk to bring in straggler tomatoes, butter beans, lettuce, and-- yes--the last rose of summer before the frost could get to them.

As I crouched in the garden, suddenly behind me was the sound of the fluttering of wings -- and lots of them. There, in the Orient pear, eating sunflower seeds from half a dozen



feeders, were 24 cardinals, all at once. I stayed as still as I could for as long as I could in the shivering cold because this was quite a sight.

Our island club members certainly do get some great birds: CBC Pres. **Teddy Shuler, Beech Island, SC**, had some good luck, with Mississippi Kites making regular appearances above her yard this past summer.

Judy Halleron, Harbor Island, SC, has some very interesting bird reporting for us. She writes, "In August a female Summer Tanager came to watch our water dish. It was special because this was only the second or third time we had a tanager of any kind on the island. The Wood Storks became more evident, with several roosting at the pond across the road and many small groups feeding in the marsh behind our house. They are always wonderful to see.

"During August we received a call about a 'white chickadee' in someone's yard about five miles away. We checked it out and, sure enough, there was a snow white chickadee with a dark forehead and bib and gray wings. It came regularly to the feeders and could be enticed to come out when the sprinklers were on. Does any world birder know if this is a vagrant species or just a partial albino?

"September brought the usual migrating warblers. We watched a female American Redstart bathing with the Carolina Chickadees and Painted Buntings. We also watched a pair of Black-and-white Warblers snacking their way up a tree trunk. However, the most interesting was a female Black-throated Blue Warbler that would drink from the hummingbird feeders. At first we thought it was eating insects that were attracted to the sugar water, but upon closer inspection, we noticed that it would fly against the feeder, then come back to drink the spilled sugar water. It did this for several days until it headed south. The male was here at the same time and was never observed drinking sugar water. Has anyone else observed a warbler with a 'sweet tooth'?

"The migrating warblers continued into October when I saw my first Wilson's Warbler on October 9. I was so excited! However, when I called George to see it, it disappeared. I stopped all other work and watched it investigate the feeders and water. This was island bird number 176.

"Now the Pine Warblers and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker are here for the winter. Last year the Pine Warblers came every day to a platform feeder for suet as did a Hermit Thrush. And we enjoy watching the Red-bellied Woodpecker wedge a sunflower seed in tree bark while it pecks out the meat.

"Bird-watching always brings such pleasure!"

It was great to get Judy's letter, and I look forward to hearing from more of you about the birds in your backyard.

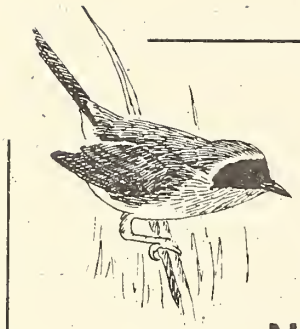
(11/8/96) —Martha

4300 Green Level Road
Apex, NC 27502

continued from page 2

Eider Quest

Barrow is no garden spot, but it does have wonderful tundra shorebirds, four species of eiders and numerous snowy owls. After two nights in Barrow we were all ready for something different like no ice, no snow, less cold and no wind. On our flight back to Anchorage our pilot flew us around Mt. McKinley. The day was crystal clear, and we could see five climbers just minutes from the summit. It was truly a breathtaking experience. As we arrived back in Anchorage we were all very pleased with our lifers, including the eiders, and were ready for some more relaxed birding on the Kenai Peninsula.



Chip Notes

T-Shirt/Cap Logo Contest

Don't forget to bring your design for a new CBC T-shirt and cap/visor to the winter meeting at Atlantic Beach. If you can't attend the meeting, mail your design to Gail Lankford at 3208 Plantation Rd., Raleigh, Nc 27609 before January 20. We will display all entries at the meeting, and those members attending will vote for their favorite. If the winning design can be successfully printed on a T-shirt and/or cap, the winner will receive several of the new T-shirts/caps free and lots of praise and thanks in a future newsletter.

Be sure and draw your design to actual size on paper, color it with crayon or ink and pin it on a solid colored T-shirt or cap (not white) at the place (front or back) that suits your design.

Spring Meeting
Clemson, SC
April 25-27, 1997

Mark your calendar now for spring bird and butterfly fun! We are already planning field trips, making strip maps and have secured the Clemson Ramada Inn for our headquarters.

Dr. Sid Gauthreaux will tell and show us his exciting work with migratory birds using Doplar and Nexrad radar. Registration details will appear in the next newsletter.

Fall Meeting

The dates for the meeting next fall have been changed to October 3-5, 1997. The meeting will be at Fort Caswell on Oak Island near Southport, NC. Mark your calendars.

Fran Birds

Hurricane Fran provided some exceptional birding for us in Moore County on Lake Auman at Seven Lakes West, West End, NC 9this is about 15 miles west of Southern Pines). Lake Auman is a 1,000 acre man-made, private lake reaching a depth of nearly 100 feet. We live on lakefront property and check the lake for birds nearly every day we are home.

On Friday, September 6, 1996, the day after hurricane Fran passed by just to our northeast, we were up early to look for any birds that may have been blown in. As we scanned the lake we saw about 100 to 150 terns flying over the lake so we brought our spotting scope out on the deck overlooking the lake to see what was there.

We identified and counted the following species: 15 Royal Terns, eight Caspian Terns, 12 Black Terns, 10 Least Terns, three Common Terns, 20 Forsters Terns, two Sooty Terns (juveniles with brownish-gray head, body and upper wing with light under belly towards the tail and light under wings fading to dark trailing edges), one Bridled Tern (adult bird with dark brownish-gray on top of wings, body and tail, white under wings with dark, well-defined trailin edges, white underbody with dark cap on the head--the bird was too far away to see the white forehead.), two Laughing Gulls, one Golden Eagle (2:30 p.m. soaring over Seven Lakes Village).

-- Dick and Lois Dole

Trestle House Inn

A reasonably priced bed and breakfast inn catering to travelers interested in wildlife is a rare find. Trestle House Inn, located in historic Edenton, NC, aspires to be such a place.

Wendy Jewett and Peter L. Bogus bought the Trestle House Inn in 1996 . Built in 1972 as a retreat the Inn overlooks a wildlife refuge on a private lake. A large pond fed by the Albemarle Sound is behind the Inn. A deck overlooking the pond is good for viewing waterfowl

There are five rooms with private bath. Current prices are $80 double and $60 single occupancy except for the Egret room, considered the anniversary/ honeymoon room, which is $90.

For a brochure describing the Inn and giving directions call or write Trestle House Inn, 632 Soundside Road, Edenton, NC 27932, (919) 482-2282.

Belize Birding

Jack and Judy Williams, birders from Columbia, SC, are coordinating a birding trip to Belize January 2-13, 1997.

The base for the trip is a lodge on the Macal River in western-central Belize near the Guatemala border built by Ken and Judy duPlooy, expatriates from Charleston, SC. Seeing 75 of the 292 resident bird species from the deck of the lodge before breakfast is possible. Canoeing, horseback riding and swimming at the lodge are alternatives to an extensive birding itinerary.

The cost per person, $2675, includes airfare from Columbia, Atlanta or Charleston, rooms, transfers, meals, tax, gratuities, activities and guides. Call Jack at home (803) 787-0118 or (803) 787-5214 for more information.

Christmas Bird Counts

A few Christmas Bird Counts have been heard from. If you would like to participate, call the contact person listed.

December 20

Long Cane, SC . . . . . Steve Wagner
(864) 223-0416

December 21

Clemson, SC. . . . . David Mizrahi
(864) 656-3584
Pee Dee Wildlife Refuge . . . Judy Walker
(704) 537-8181
Raleigh, NC . . . . . Bob Hader
(919) 782-1898

December 22

Lake Norman, NC . . . . . Judy Walker
(704) 537-8181

December 27

Cape Hatteras . . . . . Harry LeGrand
(919) 832-3202

(continued on page 8)

CBC '97 Winter Meeting
Field Trip Registration Form
(Deadline: January 10, 1997)

Name(s)_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Phone (_____) _____

Select the field trips you prefer by indicating the number of people participating on each trip. We are dedicated to keeping each trip to a manageable number of participants and will add similar trips, if possible. Note that participants are responsible for meals. On the ocean trip and full-day trip to Cape Lookout/Shackleford, you will need to bring your food.

Weather in midwinter is of course something less than dependable. Be aware that bad weather may lead to some changes in the scheduling listed below. If there are any changes in the drive-to-meeting trips, you will be contacted. For other Friday trips, any changes will be posted in the Sheraton lobby Thursday night. For Saturday trips, be on time at the meeting Friday night and pay close attention to the discussion about the trips. For late arrivals, changes will be posted in the lobby.

Friday, January 24

Drive-to-meeting Trips

____ 9:15 a.m. Trip 1 Fort Fisher area.
____ 9:00 a.m. Trip 2 Holly Shelter Game Land to Topsail Island.
____ 12 noon Trip 3 Wayne County (Goldsboro) Waste Treatment Ponds.

Half-day Trips--Morning

____ Trip 4 Bird Shoal.
____ Trip 5 Millis Road Savanna
____ Trip 6 Roosevelt Natural Area to Bogue Inlet.
____ Trip 7 Ocean Piers to Morehead-Beaufort Causeway.

Half-day Trips--Afternoon

____ Trip 8 Bird Shoal.
____ Trip 9 Roosevelt Natural Area to Bogue Inlet.
____ Trip 10 Morehead City Area.
____ Trip 11 Beaufort Area.

Saturday, January 25

All-day Trips

Trip 12 Ocean trip aboard *Continental Shelf.* $50 fee and completed Boat Trip Registration Form must be sent in advance to John Fussell.
____ Trip 13 Cape Lookout/East Shackleford Banks.

Half-day Trips--Morning

____ Trip 14 Bird Shoal.
____ Trip 15 Millis Road Savanna.
____ Trip 16 Roosevelt Natural Area to Bogue Inlet.
____ Trip 17 Ocean Piers to Morehead-Beaufort Causeway.

Half-day Trips--Afternoon

____ Trip 18 Bird Shoal.
____ Trip 19 Morehead City Area.
____ Trip 20 Beaufort Area.
____ Trip 21 Down East Carteret County.

Sunday, January 26

Plans for Sunday Birding trips will be made Saturday night based on the birds seen on Friday and Saturday.

Mail this form by January 10 to: Carolina Bird Club, Inc., P.O. Box 2955, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trip 1. Fort Fisher area near south end of US 421, south of Wilmington. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at the oceanfront parking area, just south of the Fort Fisher Museum. Persons wishing to take the 8:30 a.m. ferry from Southport will have enough time to do this. This trip will emphasize ocean watching first, with many loons and gannets, and possibly good looks at scoters and an Oldsquaw. Later, a search will be made for the resident Long-billed Curlew. This is a good area for marsh sparrows, and the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow is possible. Trip will end about 1:00 p.m.

Trip 2. Meet at the Topsail Baptist Church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. This church is on US 17, 4.4 miles north of the US 17/NC 210 intersection at Hampstead. The game lands will be checked for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and possible Henslow's Sparrows. After a quick lunch, the group will tour the north end of Topsail Island, if the island is open to the public at that time. Piers and pilings attract Great Cormorants and sometimes Harlequin Ducks. The group will also check for Eurasian Collared-Doves. Trip will end about 3:00 p.m. depending on access to Topsail Island.

Trip 3. Meet at the treatment plant at 12 noon. To get to the plant, from US 70 at Goldsboro, turn south on US 117/13 toward Mount Olive and Wilmington. At the third traffic light (Arrington Bridge Road), turn left and go 1 mile. Just past the Neuse River, you will see the treatment plant office on your right. We will view waterfowl and look for Eared Grebe, which has been found here during previous winters. A scope will be helpful. Trip will end about 2:00 p.m.

Trips **4, 8, 14, 18. Bird Shoal.** All trips meet at Outer Banks Ferry on Front Street in Beaufort, directly across from the N.C. Maritime Museum. Morning trips meet at 8:00 a.m.; afternoon trips at 1:30 p.m. **Cost of trip is $10 for morning trips, $8 for afternoon trips, payable at ferry.** Very good variety of shorebirds. Should see Peregrine Falcon, Marbled Godwits, Piping Plovers. Wilson's Plovers possible. Should see "Ipswich Sparrows." Snow Buntings possible. Two-mile walk, but don't have to walk entire distance. Be prepared for wading through calf-deep water. Morning trips end at 12 noon, afternoon trips at 5:30 p.m.

Trips 5, 15. Millis Road Savanna. Be ready to leave motel parking lot at 7:15 a.m. to caravan to site. Savanna good site for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Will hope for a Henslow's Sparrow. Will walk up to 1 mile. Savanna may have spots with 1/2" of water. Trip ends at 11:00 a.m.

Trips 6, 9, 16. Roosevelt Natural Area to Bogue Inlet. Be ready to leave motel pai 1:30 p.m. for afternoon trips. Bird along roadsides of Roosevelt Natural Area for a few land birds, including Orange-crowned Warbler. proceed to Bogue Inlet where a good variety of shorebirds can be found. Walk of 1 mile or more. Be prepared for ankle-deep water. Morning trips over about 12 noon, afternoon trips about 5:30 p.m.

Trips 7, 17. Ocean piers to Morehead-Beaufort Causeway. Trips begin on Sheraton fishing pier at 7:00 - 7:00 a.m. Will check ocean for gannets and loons, and possibly northbound scoters. May check Fort Macon for Purple Sandpipers, if any present. Will check Morehead-Beaufort causeway for marsh sparrows, hoping for Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Minimal walking. Be prepared for ankle-deep water. Trips end about 11:30 a.m.

Trips 10, 19. Morehead City Area. Meet at motel parking lot at 1:15 p.m. Check Morehead waterfront for gulls, Calico Creek for Green-winged Teal and other ducks. Will look for "Eurasian Teal." Will also check sewage treatment plant area. Minimal walking. Trips end at 5:00 p.m.

Trips 11, 20. Beaufort Area. Meet at motel parking lot at 1:45 p.m. Will check Beaufort waterfront for gulls, Howland Rock for shorebirds, including Marbled Godwits. Will end up at Carteret Wildlife Club's observation deck at North River Marsh. If enough interest, may try to flush a Yellow Rail. At last site be prepared for ankle-deep water. Trips end about 5:30 p.m.

Trip 12. Ocean trip on *Continental Shelf*. Meet at the *Continental Shelf* dock before 7:00 a.m. The dock is at the south end of 4th Street (on Evans Street) on the Morehead waterfront. Itinerary depends on weather. **Advance registration is mandatory. Please send check for $50 payable to Carolina Bird Club, along with the Boat Trip Registration Form to John Fussell by January 10.** Registrants will receive confirmation of registration and further information.

Trip 13. Cape Lookout/East Shackleford Banks. Meet at Calico Jack's Marina at Harkers Island by 7:00 a.m. This is near the east end of the island, on your right shortly before the road ends. Cost of the trip is $20, payable at the ferry. One-half day will be spent at Cape Lookout, including the point, where we will look for northbound gannets and other species. Then we will make a short boat ride to Shackleford Bands, where we should see several shorebirds, including Piping Plovers. There is a moderate chance of finding one or more Long-billed Curlews. Shackleford can produce excellent shelling. This may be a somewhat rigorous trip with 20-minute rides in small open boats and much walking. Be prepared for spray on boat rides. Will walk 2 miles or so. At Shackleford may have to wade through calf-deep water. Trip ends about 5:00 p.m.

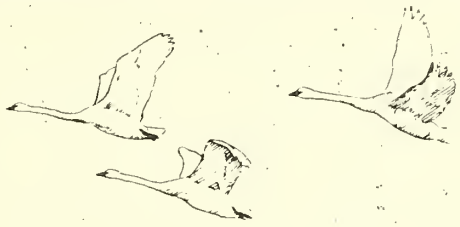
Trip 21. Down East Carteret County. Meet at motel parking lot at 1:15 p.m. Will make several stops along NC 70/NC 12 in eastern Carteret County, including Davis Impoundment (where Eurasian Wigeon have been seen in past winters) and at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, where we will check the horse stables for a rare blackbird or cowbird. Trip ends up at the Cedar Island Marshes where we will hear rails and watch for Short-eared Owls. Trip ends about 6:00 p.m.

CBC Winter Field Trip

Outer Banks Winter Birds **January 10-12, 1997**
Limit: 20 participants (minimum age 16, minors accompanied by regostered adult) **Cost:** $40
($35 CBC members and Friends of Museum) **Leaders:** John & Paula Wright and Jan Weems

Join us for a leisurely trip that combines bird watching with a taste of the history of Nags Head. A visit to the Outer Banks at this time of year provides one with a good opportunity to see closeup large numbers of winter waterfowl along with loons, grebes, herons and raptors.

The group will meet Friday at 9:00 p.m. for an orientation session at the First Colony Inn, a restored bed-and-breakfast offering special rates to our group. Saturday night, Camille Turner Lawrence of the First Colony Inn will talk about the history of the Inn and Nags Head.



Participants provide their own food, lodging and transportation. Continental breakfasts are provided for Inn guests. All rooms have refrigerator and microwave.

To make reservations at the First Colony Inn call (800) 368-9390 and mention that you are with the Museum bird trip. This trip is co-sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

Registration: Send name of each participant and check payable to Museum Extension Fund to: Education Secretary, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555. Request registration for Program Number 051. For further information contact John or Paula Wright (919) 756-5139.

Winter Birding on the *Continental Shelf*

John Fussell has put together exciting plans for a birding trip on the *Continental Shelf* as part of the winter meeting of the Carolina Bird Club. On Saturday, January 25, this large headboat will head out of the Morehead City waterfront in search of the birds that the weather conditions at the time will allow. If the weather is ideal, the *Continental Shelf* will run offshore to "Big Rock," a coral reef on the 100-fathom line, where a search for pelagic species will be made. If winds are brisk northerly, the plan is to search through loon flocks near Cape Lookout for a rarity

and chum for rare gulls. Another alternative is to work the ocean a few miles off Topsail Island where large numbers of loons winter and where alcids have been reported. If the ocean is rough everywhere, the captain will take the boat up the Intracoastal Waterway to the lower Neuse River where there are flocks of loons and scoters and where Oldsquaws are likely.

Cost of the trip is $50. Make your check payable to the Carolina Bird Club and mail it with the form below to John Fussell, P.O. Box 2236, Morehead City, NC 28557. **The deadline for registration is January 10.**

. . . . . .

Continental Shelf Boat Trip Registration Form
CBC Winter Meeting, Saturday, January 25, 1997

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Phone (_____) _____

The CBC has reserved the *Continental Shelf* for Saturday, January 25, 1997. The trip has been planned with several options based on the weather conditions at the time. If the trip is canceled, your payment will be refunded. If you agree to these conditions, please sign this form and send it with your payment of $50.

Signed: _____

Mail with check payable to **Carolina Bird Club, Inc.** to **John Fussell**, P.O. Box 2236, Morehead City, NC 28557

Fall is Fine in Beaufort

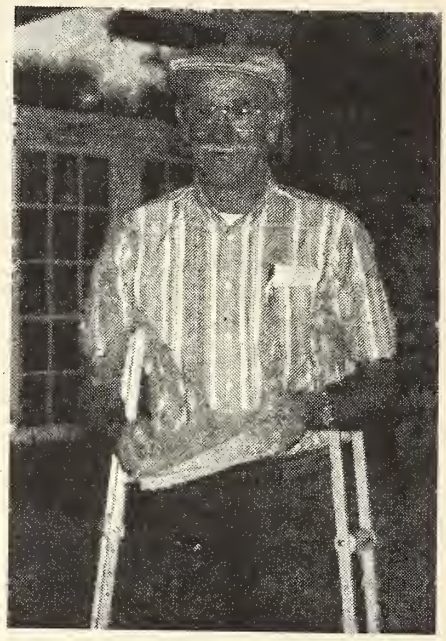
Proud family and friends of graduating Paris Island Marines mingled with eager birders gathering for the CBC fall meeting in Beaufort, SC, September 20-22.

Beautiful fall weather smiled on the early birders who took in the Friday field trips. A late addition to the schedule of the field trips for the weekend was Spring Island, a 3,000 acre island bounded by the Colleton and Chechessee Rivers approximately 13 miles southwest of Beaufort. The environmentally conscious owners have set aside in perpetuity 1,000 acres as a nature preserve, including a 600-acre live oak forest believed to be one of the largest remaining stands of old-growth live oaks on the East Coast. Of more immediate interest to the CBC members granted entrance to this gated community were the large numbers of Wood Storks and thrushes including a Bicknell's that were sighted. An abundance of butterflies also delighted the Friday visitors.

The remainder of the 226 participants who arrived for the Saturday field trips were greeted by rainy skies, but all field trips including the ACE basin boat tour on the *Dixie Lady* went out and a total of 189 species were seen.

Programs on Friday and Saturday focused on efforts to restore endangered and threatened species in SC. As usual there was good and bad news. Especially noteworthy was the success of breeding Wood Storks, with SC now more important to their survival than Florida.

Many thanks to **Van Atkins** and his lovely and patient wife **Wynema**, **Ben** and **Lucy Smith** as well as the hard working field trip leaders and program speakers who made the fall meeting especially fine.



Van Atkins, executive committeemember-at-large for SC, didn't let a knee operation slow him down in running the CBC fall meeting at Beaufort, SC.

Dee Dee and the Frozen Birds

by Joshua A. Lee

Very much enjoyed meeting with CBC at Beaufort (Buefort, that is) for the autumn meeting. The two of us didn't do much birding, our legs not being what they once were. We did get out to Donnelly for an afternoon trek, and what a fabulous place it is. Must go back someday.

Eight years have past since we left Raleigh. We are settled here in Georgia near a good-sized pond. it's a great place for birds and other wildlife. We don't have a great variety of birds but good numbers of the kinds we do have. A treat last year was a pair of Mississippi Kites nesting in our neighbor's yard. The Swallow-tailed Kite is increasing in the Savannah River watershed and now visits the Ogeechee basin. Now and then we see a Bald Eagle on its way to, or from, Florida. I no longer keep a martin colony, but martins are abundant here.

One of my more interesting bird adventures of the year actually concerned a dead bird. While on a farm tour in the late summer a lady, I shall call her Dee Dee, approached and asked if I could identify a bird for her, a specimen home in her freezer. Her description was approximately as follows: size of a sparrow, sort of olive brown on the back, yellowish on the tummy, with a light stripe over the eye. I racked my somewhat failing memory but couldn't come up with an American bird that fitted the description. Dee Dee's make agreed with a bird I'd seen in Australia, the clamorous Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus stentorious*. Could one of those noisy swamp singers have followed me back to the USA? Not jolly likely.

I agreed to come to Dee Dee's place and look at the bird. Thus I gathered up my field guides and paid a call. Dee Dee took the bird from a freezer and placed it in my hands.

Dee Dee's description had been pretty good. The bird was sort of olive-brownish on the dorsum. There was a light stripe over the eye, and the "dirty white" ventrum was lightly washed with yellow! The longish bill gave the bird away. For the first time I held a Swainson's Warbler in my hands. No description available suggested that the bird should have yellow on the belly. I've rarely seen this rather cryptic species, so I had nothing much to go on for making a comparison. Could this be a matter of the bird's age, or geographic variation, or what?

Be that as it may, we identified the bird, and then Dee Dee showed me a freezer half-full of birds, specimens that had flown into her windows or had been picked up here and there. I kept thinking: young lady this is illegal, illegal. But I didn't get into that. I advised her to turn the birds over to Georgia Southern University to add to their collection, and she said that she would.

The law about accumulating wild birds is a good one, it's a great way to get a plume hunter dead to rights. But the Dee Dees of this world are harmless enough. Just take those frozen birds and let them serve science, or nature study, or whatever else might promote interest in birds and their conservation.

Membership Application and Order Form

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Tel.. ( )_____ ( )_____
(home) (business)

Enter/Renew Membership As Indicated

____Individual	($15)	____Affiliate Club	($20)	____CBC Cloth arm patch $1.50 ea., $1.25 ea. in quantity	
____Family	($20)	____Contributing	($35)	____CBC Decals (vinyl stick-on) $2.00 ea., $1.75 ea. in quanity	
____Student	($10)	____Patron	($50)	____Checklists 10/$1.75, 25/$4.25, 50/$8.25, 75/$12, 100/$15	
____Library/Institution	($15)	____Life	($250)		

Send Materials Indicated

Make check payable to **Carolina Bird Club, Inc.** and mail to PO Box 2955, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

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Registration Form
CBC Special Field Trips

Name(s)_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone ( )_____ (day) ( )_____ (evening)

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $_____ for the following field trip: _____051 Outer Banks Winter Birds $40 ($35 for CBC and Friends of Museum members).

Make check payable to **Museum Extension Fund** and mail to Education Secretary, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

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Sheraton Reservation Form
Carolina Bird Club
Winter Meeting, January 24-26, 1997

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____ Telephone No. ( )_____

Please reserve ____single ($39) ____double ($45) ____triple/quad ($55) room. ____I desire a king size bed (add $10). My check for the first night's lodging plus 9% tax is enclosed. I will arrive_____ and depart_____.

Mail with deposit to **Sheraton Atlantic Beach Resort**, PO Box 3040, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512 or call 1-800-624-8875, Fax 919-240-1452

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Registration Form
CBC Winter Meeting, January 24-26, 1997

Name(s)_____
(list each name for name tags)

Address_____ City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of $_____ for _____member registrations at $6 each, _____nonmember registrations at $7 each. Registration at the meeting is $10 for members and $11 for nonmembers.

Mail with check payable to **Carolina Bird Club, Inc.**, PO Box 29555, Raleigh, NC 27626-0555

Welcome New Members

Beverly & Juke Cannon
Greenville, SC

Becky Carver-McLain
Durham, NC

Walton Conway
Boone, NC

Lucinda Cox
Charlotte, NC

Philip Dech
Jacksonville, NC

Jim Edwards & Jane Chew
Greenville, SC

Beverly & Patrick Gilmore
Matthews, SC

Carol Harrison
Gwynn, VA

David Highbaugh
Knoxville, TN

Daniel M. Kaplan
Raleigh, NC

Megan Martoglio
Mt. Gilead, NC

Eleanor K. McColman
Raleigh, NC

Michael Milligan
Monks Corner, SC

David B. Ritland
Due West, SC

Frank & Ellen Shaw
Beaufort, SC

Jean Teneriello
Isle of Palms, SC

Deceased

Joseph R. Norwood
Salisbury, NC

continued from page 4

Chip Notes

December 28

Bodie/Pea Island, NC..... Paul Sykes
(706) 769-9436

Correction

The September/October article on nominations inadvertently ommitted the office of President. The incumbent, Teddy Shuler is not eligible for reelection.

Bird Records Committee

At its meeting in Beaufort, the CBC executive committee approved Will Post as a replacement for Sid Gauthreau on the SC Bird Records Committee

CBC Newsletter is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc., the ornithological society of the Carolinas, with headquarters at Raleigh, NC. CBC is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1937, with membership open to anyone interested in birds, natural history and conservation. Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to CBC Newsletter, Clyde Smith, Editor, 2615 Wells Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608, (919) 781-2637 (voice or fax), e-mail, Smith82534@aol.com. Submission deadline is the 10th of January, March, May, July, September and November. Articles may be in the form of typed, hard copy or 3 1/2 " computer disk.

Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

CBC

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